**Did I Miss Anything?** -Tom Wayman

                                                        Question frequently asked by  
                                                        students after missing a class

Nothing. When we realized you weren't here  
we sat with our hands folded on our desks  
in silence, for the full two hours

        Everything. I gave an exam worth  
        40 per cent of the grade for this term  
        and assigned some reading due today  
        on which I'm about to hand out a quiz  
        worth 50 per cent

Nothing. None of the content of this course  
has value or meaning  
Take as many days off as you like:  
any activities we undertake as a class  
I assure you will not matter either to you or me  
and are without purpose

        Everything. A few minutes after we began last time  
        a shaft of light descended and an angel  
        or other heavenly being appeared  
        and revealed to us what each woman or man must do  
        to attain divine wisdom in this life and  
        the hereafter  
        This is the last time the class will meet  
        before we disperse to bring this good news to all people  
                on earth

Nothing. When you are not present  
how could something significant occur?

        Everything. Contained in this classroom  
        is a microcosm of human existence  
        assembled for you to query and examine and ponder  
        This is not the only place such an opportunity has been  
                gathered

        but it was one place

        And you weren't here